

Introduced by Senator Wyland

May 21, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 123—Relative to Voter Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 123, as introduced, Wyland. Voter Awareness Week.

This measure would proclaim the week of September 21 to 27, 2014, as Voter Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, an essential part of an effective democracy is the
2 opportunity for all eligible people to register and to vote; and
3 WHEREAS, California’s voter turnout among young adults is
4 low compared to that of other states; it was only 41.6 percent in
5 the 2012 presidential election; and
6 WHEREAS, Californians under the age of 25 increased their
7 registration rates by 8 percent in 2012; and
8 WHEREAS, Young adults who are provided with practical
9 information about voting feel more prepared to participate and
10 become active, engaged citizens who will benefit California’s
11 political climate in the future; and
12 WHEREAS, While most youth voter outreach efforts target
13 college students, there is a tremendous gap in registration and
14 turnout rates between young adults with college experience and
15 those without; and
16 WHEREAS, Young adults are the best resource available to
17 encourage other young adults to register and to vote; and

1 WHEREAS, Involving young adults in civic education
2 opportunities, activities, and discussion can increase the likelihood
3 that others in their households will vote; and

4 WHEREAS, People who begin voting at a younger age are more
5 likely to vote consistently later in life; and

6 WHEREAS, As young adults comprise a larger portion of the
7 voting population than the baby boomers, it is necessary to
8 encourage the youth of our state to participate in the democratic
9 system in order to train and prepare the next generation of political
10 and civic leaders; and

11 WHEREAS, California has the opportunity to boost registration
12 rates among young adults through the use of its online voter
13 registration application, launched in 2012, which young adults
14 prefer to the traditional voter registration application; and

15 WHEREAS, A primary purpose of California's schools is to
16 prepare students to become active citizens; and

17 WHEREAS, There is an ongoing need to increase youth civic
18 participation; now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
20 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
21 week of September 21-27, 2014 as Voter Awareness Week; and
22 be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages all of California's
24 public schools to participate in Voter Awareness Week activities;
25 and be it further

26 *Resolved*, that the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this
27 resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.